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OBITUARY.

FRANCIS H. NICHOLS.

A telegram from the American Consul-General at Calcutta, received on the 29th of December, 1904, announced to this Society the death of Francis H. Nichols on that day at Gyantse, Tibet.

Mr. Nichols was born in Brooklyn, October 31, 1869. He grew up in Chicago, to which city his father had removed in 1870, and there he began his business life. In 1895 he found employment with a firm in New York, a position which he left to become a reporter for the press. In 1901 he was commissioned to visit the famine districts of Western China and report on the distribution of the famine fund. His observations and studies of Chinese life are recorded in his book, *Through Hidden Shensi*, published in 1902.

In the autumn of that year Mr. Nichols planned another expedition to Western China and Tibet, with the intention of making his way into Lhasa. His plan was submitted to the Council of this Society and approved, and in March, 1903, he left New York for China. In Peking the Imperial Government accorded him every facility, and he set out upon his journey to the westward, travelling in Chinese garb with the Chinese, and by slow stages. In May, 1904, he reached the frontier of Tibet, where he engaged his carriers, and in June began his march towards Lhasa. At a point about fifty miles west of Chamutong the carriers refused to go any farther, and Mr. Nichols was forced to turn back. He made his way alone to Mandalay, in Burma, and from there to Darjiling and Chumbi, in the hope of entering Tibet from India, but he was not allowed to pass.

It is not known how he entered Tibet, but he telegraphed to the Society on the 8th of December his arrival at Gyantse, "All well." The story of the next three weeks is told in the copy of a telegram enclosed in a letter to the Society from the British Ambassador at Washington. On the 10th of December Mr. Nichols was taken ill with influenza and fever, and on the 24th pneumonia set in. That very day the sick man sent a message of Christmas greeting to his father and mother; his last word to them.

During his illness Mr. Nichols received every care and attention from Captain Steen, British medical officer at Gyantse.

The life thus suddenly brought to a close leaves behind it the memory of a loyal and unselfish character, richly endowed with qualities that promised the attainment of a lasting renown.